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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4517
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0223

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000572

SIPDIS

FOR S. BEECROFT WITH SECSTATE'S PARTY, SCA/AS - R. BOUCHER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [PGOV](#) [UNGA](#) [UNSC](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL AFGHANISTAN ALLOWANCE APPROVED

1. THE UN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (ACABQ) TODAY APPROVED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S (SYG) REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF SERVING IN THE UN ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA). THIS WAS THE SYG'S SECOND REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL UNAMA ALLOWANCE, THE FIRST HAVING BEEN DENIED IN DECEMBER, 2007. THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE REQUEST WAS MADE TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT ONGOING PROBLEMS WITH RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF QUALIFIED INTERNATIONAL STAFF IN AFGHANISTAN.

2. THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE WAS APPROVED FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009,

3. COMMENT: THE ACABQ REACHED CONSENSUS APPROVAL OF THE SYG'S REQUEST AFTER EFFORTS TO DEMARCHE MEMBER STATES WITH EXPERTS ON THE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THE SPECIAL UNAMA ALLOWANCE. THE COMMITTEE ALSO EXPRESSED AN EXPECTATION THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE ACTION ON HARMONIZING CONDITIONS OF SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE UN SECRETARIAT. GETTING THE UNAMA SPECIAL ALLOWANCE THROUGH THE ACABQ PROVED MORE DIFFICULT THAN WE ANTICIPATED AND THE COMMITTEE CHAIR SUSAN MCLURG WAS UNSURE TO WHAT EXTENT THE DEMARCHE EFFORT MAY HAVE INFLUENCED THE COMMITTEE'S ACTION. END COMMENT.

Khalilzad